

Public media stations SHOULD NOT BE USED AS PERSONAL, BIASED, PARTISAN PLATFORMS TO BE USED FOR TOUTING ONE'S POLITICAL BELIEFS. There are laws against such behavior, yet many of these broadcasting corporations get little more than a "slap on the hand" for deliberate violations. Or, they receive a monetary fine that is a mere pittance to the profits they are making as they are allowed become moguls of the industry, swallowing up small, independent broadcast stations throughout the country.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REGULATIONS THAT USED TO KEEP THIS SORT OF MONOPOLIZATION FROM OCCURRING?

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their special interest and less of what we need for our democracy.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.